

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 29, as follows:

The switching fabric then stores the ingress port identifier for the packet and the port state into the AFH header of the packet. Figure 8 illustrates one embodiment of the format of the AFH packet header after these values have been inserted. The switching fabric then stores the packet in a queue associated with the ~~previously~~previously determined output port of the I/O blade. This queue is selected from a plurality of possible queues, each corresponding to different qualities of service or priorities. It determines the queue associated with the output port based on the EQoS value associated with the packet.